

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## CARA MURRAY

Cara Murray is a student in the Masters of Architecture program at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. She completed her undergraduate degree in Studio Art and worked several years before hearing about the 3 year graduate degree. She will graduate in December 2016 and hopes to establish her own studio that will combine her interests of art and architecture.

### **What interested you in the Central Europe study abroad program?**

Out of the programs offered, the Central Europe study abroad program presented the most exposure to different cultures and ways of life by traveling to six different countries. In addition, the electives covered topics in art and film. Both, I was interested in exploring.

### **Tell us about your contribution to the FutureCity studio.**

For the FutureCity Studio, I used my time in Europe as inspiration; the age of the cities, the histories that formed them, the people that inhabit them, the blending of cultures. With these influences, I propose that the FutureCity lies between time and eternity, defining what it means “to be”. The potential of a city is paired with its actual state, creating an ephemeral “present”. The city has no name or place; it is, always was, and always will be. The visual representations for the exhibition of this city include cartography, abstract core samples, and photography expressed through the use of collage, models, and film.

### **What do you feel was the most enriching educational aspect of being immersed in these European cities?**

As invaluable as it is to learn about art and architecture in history classes, nothing compares to being able to see and experience it first-hand. The way people move through a space, the scale of a painting or sculpture, the way a city sounds or smells can only be experienced in person. The details can't be fully understood through photographs, books, or lectures.

### **What would you tell other students who are considering one of the study abroad programs?**

If you haven't traveled outside of Texas or if you haven't been abroad, this is an experience that you will not regret. Whatever it takes, do it and don't think twice.

